

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This Listing of claims will replace, without prejudice, all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of claims:

1. (Currently amended) A method of ~~fixturing~~ loading cutting tool inserts in Physical Vapor Deposition coating equipment, the method comprising:
providing a tube of a non-magnetic metallic material having an outer wall surrounding a stack of alternating discs of a magnetic material and iron, north poles of the magnets are directed towards each other;
positioning the cutting inserts on the outer wall of the tube; and
retaining the cutting inserts by magnetic forces.
2. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the tube has a circular cross-section.
3. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the tube has a wall thickness of less than 1.5 mm.
4. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the tube has a wall thickness of less than 1.0 mm.
5. (Currently amended) A fixture for use in magnetically holding tools during a coating process, the fixture comprising:
a tube of a non-magnetic metallic material;
a stack of discs disposed within the tube, the stack comprising alternating discs of magnetic material and iron.
6. (Previously presented) The fixture of claim 5, wherein the tube has an outer wall adapted to retain one or more cutting inserts by magnetic force thereon.
7. (New) The fixture of claim 5, wherein the north poles of the magnets are directed towards each other.

8. (New) A fixture for holding cutting tool inserts in Physical Vapor Deposition coating equipment, comprising:

a tube of a non-magnetic metallic material, at least a portion of the external surface of the tube being adapted to receive and retain cutting inserts thereon by magnetic force;

a stack of discs disposed within the tube, the stack comprising alternating discs of magnetic material and iron.

9. (New) The fixture of claim 8, wherein the north poles of the magnets are directed towards each other.